

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 103258 TOSEC 110335

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 103258 TOSEC 110335

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT BAMAKO 1441, SENT SECSTATE, INFO ABIDJAN,
CONAKRY, DAKAR, NIAMEY, OUAGADOUGOU, APRIL 29:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BAMAKO 1441

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ML

SUBJ: MALIAN COMMENTS ON SECRETARY'S LUSAKA SPEECH

1. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF OTHER ISSUES AT MFA APRIL 28,
SECRETARY GENERAL SEYDOU TRAORE TOLD CHARGE, IN VERY
RELAXED FASHION, THAT HE HAD READ SECRETARY'S LUSAKA
SPEECH AND HAD BEEN FAVORABLY IMPRESSED. THE TEN POINTS
DELINEATING US POLICY ON RHODESIA WERE GOOD. HE
STRONGLY HOPED THESE GOOD WORDS WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY
SPECIFIC ACTS.

2. THE US, SAID TRAORE, HAD ALWAYS BEEN TOO SLOW
TO REACT TO AFRICAN POLITICS. THE DRIVE FOR
MAJORITY RULE WAS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACT
OF LIFE IN AFRICA TODAY. WHY, HE SAID, HAD THE
US BEEN SO SLOW TO REACT TO THIS? TALK ABOUT PEACE-
FUL SOLUTIONS HAD ONLY ENCOURAGED THE WHITE MINOR-
ITY REGIMES TO DIG IN THEIR HEELS. THE SOVIETS HAD
PROVIDED ARMS--AT THE REQUEST OF THE LIBERATION
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PAGE 02 STATE 103258 TOSEC 110335

MOVEMENTS--AND WOULD NATURALLY BE IN A FAVORABLE

POSITION WHEN THOSE MOVEMENTS CAME TO POWER. ANGOLA
WAS A CAS IN POINTGMV

GMV TRUOR ADDED THAT, IN HIS VIEW, THE SECRETARY'S
STATEMENT DENYING MILITARY AID TO LIBERATION MOVE-
MENTS WAS A MISTAKE. EVEN IF THE US DID NOT INTEND
TO SUPPLY THEM ARMS, IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO SAY
SO. THE LEADERS OF THESE MOVEMENTS WOULD AT LEAST
HOPE TO RECEIVE SUCH AID AND MIGHT TAKE MORE INTO
ACCOUNT THEIR APPROACH TO PROBLEMS OF INTEREST TO
THE US. THERE WAS LITTLE HOPE OF THAT NOW, TRAORE
ADDED.

4. CHARGE SAID THAT SECRETARY HAD NOT GONE TO
AFRICA WITH READY-MADE AMERICAN PLAN FOR SOUTHERN
AFRICA. INTENT HAD BEEN TO LISTEN AND LEARN.
SECRETARY'S SPEECH ON RHODESIA HAD BEEN WELL
RECEIVED IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND IT WOULD BE
BEST TO WAIT TO SEE THE RESULTS. AS TO VIEW THAT
TIME FOR NEGOTIATIONS WAS PAST, CHARGE QUOTED
SECRETARY'S STATEMENT THAT EVEN AFTER AN ARMED
STRUGGLE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE NECESSARY.

5. TRAORE THANKED CHARGE FOR EARLY (CABLE) TEXT OF
SECRETARY'S SPEECH IN FRENCH; CHARGE PROMISED TO
SUPPLY COPIOUS QUANTITIES OF FINISHED FRENCH TEXT
AS SOON AS THEY WERE RUN OFF BY EMBASSY.

6. COMMENT: TRAORE'S FREELY OFFERED COMMENTS
ACCURATELY REFLECT MALIAN THINKING, OFFICIAL AND
PRIVATE, ON US AFRICAN POLICY. BLUNTNESS IS A
NATIONAL TRAIT IN MALI AND TRAORE'S COMMENTS ARE
NOT UNUSUAL. DAWKING UNQUOTE. SISCO

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